

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado
Hay Canyon RX
DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2015-0003-DNA

A. Background:

This project has been initiated to improve habitat conditions for wildlife and livestock along with reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires to public and private lands. Accomplishing these land management needs will be most effective by implementing a landscape approach by using the treatment methods of prescribed fire, and the use of naturally occurring wildfire throughout the project area.

A large portion of the Colorado Book Cliffs Restoration Project (DOI-BLM-CO-130-2012-0048-EA), that is suitable for vegetation treatments, has also been identified as critical wintering habitat for deer and elk. Mixed mountain brush habitats are vital for mule deer and elk that rely on sagebrush and oak brush for cover, forage, feed, and travel routes during winter, summer, and migratory seasons. Deer and elk rely on migration corridors into their wintering areas that are uninhibited by dense vegetation and human-related developments. The proposed suitable treatment areas are dominated by late seral stages of pinyon/juniper and mountain shrub communities with the grass, forb, and shrub meadows decreasing in size as they are encroached upon by early seral pinyon/juniper and mountain shrub vegetation types.

Along with the loss of productive winter habitat for wildlife, a landscape of continuous hazardous fuels is developing in the Colorado Book Cliffs Planning Area. Following a landmark fire season the National Fire Plan (NFP) was developed in 2000 to address and treat these hazardous fuels. The Healthy Forest Initiative signed in August 2002 and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act signed in December 2003 gave additional support to the NFP and have equipped land managers with additional tools to achieve long-term objectives in reducing hazardous fuels and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

B. Purpose and Need:

The purpose of this project is to improve critical winter habitat conditions for mule deer and elk by removing dense pinyon and juniper stands, and to remove continuous hazardous fuels that are developing in the Hay Canyon unit of the Colorado Book Cliffs Planning area. The need for the project is a due to the dramatic decrease in the available winter range and quality of winter range for both deer and elk. Along with overly dense mountain shrub communities the existing sagebrush ecosystems within the Planning Area have become degraded since livestock grazing and fire suppression were introduced during Euro-American settlement.

C. Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to use prescribed fire and natural occurring wildfires to treat and maintain approximately 1,260 acres within the Colorado Bookcliffs Restoration Project. This DNA would cover the Hay Canyon unit.

The Hay Canyon unit which has been identified for efficiency and effectiveness can be treated with limited line preparation and ground disturbance, along with maximizing vegetative responses including reduction of hazardous fuel loading. Naturally occurring wildfires would also be used and evaluated for land management needs and resource benefits as a natural land

maintenance and restoration process.

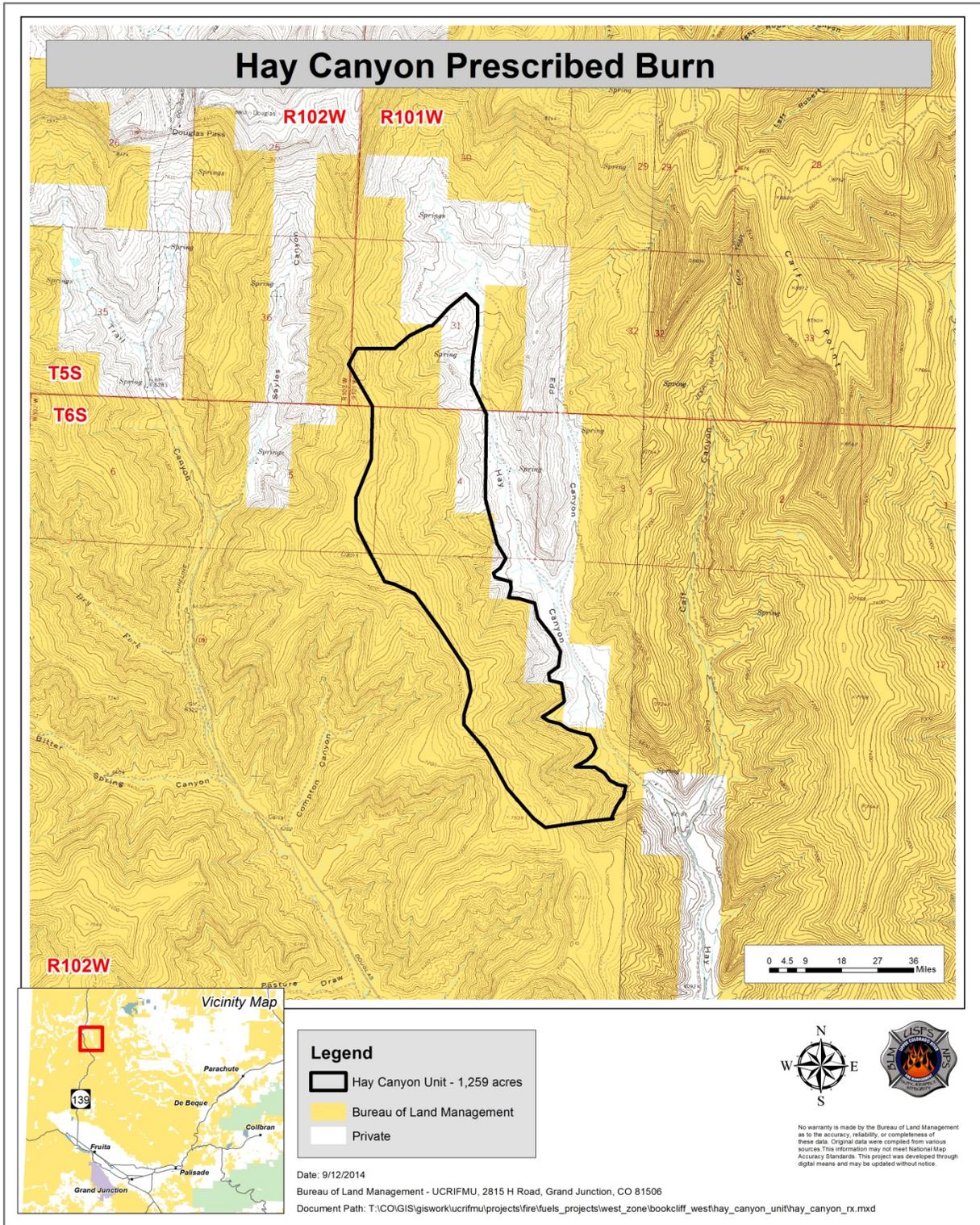
This will effectively change the vegetation from dense vegetative community with low perennial understory density and diversity and low browse potential to a more diverse grass and forb community. This treatment would result in an increase in wildlife and livestock forage opportunities and results in a lower intensity wildfire in the event one should occur as compared to the current condition.

A baseline for monitoring would be established before the project is implemented. Monitoring for measurable objectives would be carried out at one year (minimum one growing season), three year, and 10 year intervals from implementation to ensure that objectives are met. The primary objectives of the project are as follows:

- 1) Reduce the hazardous fuel conditions in project area to decrease the threat of a catastrophic wildland fire moving from public land to private lands.
- 2) To create diversity in the mixed oakbrush/mountain shrub vegetation types within the landscape by converting vegetation in the treatment areas to early seral stage.
- 3) Increase forage availability to big game, livestock and other wildlife in the project area while retaining adequate cover.

All prescribed fire operations will be conducted in accordance with an approved prescribed fire burn plan and the State of Colorado Smoke Management Plan and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and will be regulated under Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control Division, approved open burning permits.

Agreements are in place with all cooperators and land owners in the event burning is initiated on private land.



Hay Canyon Unit - T6S R102W, section 4, 5, 9, 10, 15 and 16. T5S R 101W, section 31.

D. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Grand Junction Resource Area RMP Date Approved: January 1987

Decision Number/Page: Chapter 2, Page 42, Paragraph 1; WM-5-2-14, and FM-4-2-32

Decision Language: Under all alternatives, habitat of the major wildlife species would be actively managed using standard management practices; Wildlife Management: Actively manage the areas shown on Map 10 and listed in Table 11 placing management emphasis on the key species shown, and Fire Management: Assign levels to areas based upon protection of resource values present, and manage or suppress fires as prescribed by the assigned levels.

E. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Name of Document: Colorado Bookcliffs Restoration Project (DOI-BLM-CO-130-2012-0048-EA)

Date Approved: June 29, 2013

F. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document? The current proposed action will use the same type of treatments that were analyzed in the Colorado Bookcliffs Restoration Project (DOI-BLM-CO-130-2012-0048-EA) The proposed action falls within the boundary of the area analyzed in that EA.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values? The proposed action area within Colorado Bookcliffs Restoration Project has the same environmental concerns, interests, and resource values as the area analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The proposed action falls within the range of alternatives provided in the original NEPA document

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances? Yes. No circumstances or information has changed that would result in impacts that were not analyzed in the existing 2013 EA.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action? Yes. The area is within the analysis area for the referenced EA and the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing 2013 EA and would be the same if a new EA was written.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document

analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action? Yes. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are the same as those identified in the existing NEPA document, because the proposed action is the same as the action in the preferred alternative of the referenced EA, the resources and resource concerns are the same.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Yes, this action combined with the actions analyzed in the existing EA would contribute to hazardous fuels reduction and landscape-scale improvements to wildlife habitat. Cumulative impacts in the area are limited and would remain the same as those analyzed in the referenced EA.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? This proposed action is consistent with the actions of the existing 2013 EA in which scoping and a public meeting was held. Annual meetings continue to be held with interested parties in the Hay Canyon area to discuss progress and the results of vegetative treatments.

G. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist
Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds	Archaeologist
Christina Stark	Planning & Environmental Coordinator
Scott Clark	Range Management Specialist
Alan Krause	Hazardous Materials Specialist
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist
Mark Tabor	Range Management Specialist

Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Effects sufficiently analyzed/ mitigated in previous NEPA document or proposed action?	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments
PHYSICAL RESOURCES						
Air and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	PLB 12/8/14	Programmatic EA & the smoke permit will cover this.
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	PLB 12/8/14	Add buffer to design features.
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	PLB 12/8/14	
Geological/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 11/18/14	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Special Status Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ARL 11/28/14	
Special Status Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 1/8/15	
Migratory Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 1/8/15	
Other Important Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 1/8/15	
Vegetation, Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	SC 1/12/15	Vegetation communities will be manipulated
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	MT 11/17/14	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CS 1/20/14	Please include the buffer design feature from the 2012 EA.
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.						
Cultural or Historical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALR 10/27/2014	Standard Stipulations need to be in final document.
Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 11/18/14	
Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALR 10/27/14	Consultation has started, should be completed by end of November.
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 1/27/15	
Social/Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CS 1/20/15	
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 1/27/15	
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AK 10/24/14	SOP's for fuel mgt
LAND RESOURCES						
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 1/27/15	
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 11/18/14	
Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 11/18/14	
Range Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	SC 10/24/14	
Wild Horse and Burros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 11/18/14	
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	RBL 1/5/15	
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 11/18/14	

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 2/18/15

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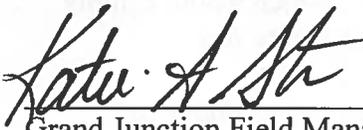
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CONCLUSION

 X Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

 Based on the review documented above, I conclude that either the proposal does not conform with the land use plan, or that additional NEPA analysis is needed.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Grand Junction Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 2-20-15

The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

SITE SPECIFIC STIPULATIONS:

1. Locate, flag, and protect any survey monuments (brass cap monuments, bearing trees, private monuments) that may exist in this project area.
2. Areas to be avoided to protect cultural and other resource values would be flagged prior to project implementation. In areas with significant cultural resources, project boundaries will be designed as to avoid such areas.
3. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds equipment would be cleaned through established procedures as part of the Statement of Work.
4. Determine boundaries of the treatment areas near private lands prior to fuel reduction to avoid treatment of private lands.
5. Existing roads and trails would be used by agency personnel to eliminate development of new routes and trails. When driving off roads, personnel would avoid repeatedly driving back and forth via the same route.
6. Schedule project work outside of the dates May 15th and July 15th, which would comply with measures to protect species identified by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
7. Coordinate with the Colorado Department of Wildlife to best determine timing and operation procedures to limit any possible wildlife winter range issues.
8. All road, telephone, and power line rights-of-way's and facilities will be located and flagged prior to commencement of the project to assure that no damage will occur.
9. A vegetative buffer will be maintained along drainages, streams and/or springs to filter any sediment and protect water quality.
10. All persons in the area who are associated with this project shall be informed that any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh)
11. Inadvertent Discovery: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) [16 USC 470s., 36 CFR 800.13], as amended, requires that if newly discovered historic or archaeological materials or other cultural resources are identified during the Proposed Action implementation, work in that area must stop and the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) must be notified immediately. Within five working days the AO will determine the actions that will likely have to be completed before the site can be used (assuming in place preservation is not necessary).

12. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) [25 USC 3001 et seq., 43 CFR 10.4] requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Human Remains or Objects of Cultural Patrimony occurs, any activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice be made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)).
13. The operator may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and delays associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately inventoried and has no resource concerns, and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the operator shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The BLM authorized officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for relocation and/or to conduct mitigation. Upon verification from the BLM authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will be allowed to resume construction.
14. Antiquities, historic ruins, prehistoric ruins, and other cultural or paleontological objects of scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but potentially affected, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed action shall also be included in this evaluation or mitigation. Impacts that occur to such resources as a result of the authorized activities shall be mitigated at the operator's cost, including the cost of consultation with Native American groups